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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/078,271	02/20/2002	Manabu Takezaki	TAKEZAKI=1	3403

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EXAMINER

MANCHO, RONNIE M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3663

DATE MAILED: 11/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/078,271

Applicant(s)

TAKEZAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Ronnie Mancho

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-14 and 16-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 14, 16-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 10, 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Urano (5990898).

Regarding claim 10, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means (figs. 1B, 8, 12; col. 25, lines 15-19) for setting a predetermined area centered about school zone (col. 25, lines 34-62) as one of a plurality of school zones depending on type of the school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone.

Regarding claim 11, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means (figs. 1B, 8, 12; col. 25, lines 15-19) for setting a predetermined area (school zone, col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on types of roads (col. 25, lines 34-36), and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone.

Regarding claim 12, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means for setting a predetermined area (school zone, col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on road density (col. 25, lines 34-36; i.e. all roads in the school zone are considered, therefore road density) surrounding the

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school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone (col. 25, lines 15-62).

Regarding claim 13, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means for setting a predetermined area (school zone, col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on area division, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone (col. 25, lines 15-62).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-8, 14, 16, 24-26, 27, 36 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office action.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose "a notification of direction is given less frequent than a number of times the car drives the traveling route if the car drives the traveling route a plurality of times".

In claims 14&16, the prior art did not disclose the limitation of changing contents of the warning depending on vehicle speed.

In claims 16, the prior art did not disclose the limitation of a controlling means sending a deceleration signal to reduce the speed.

In claim 24, the prior art does not disclose "a voice output means for outputting a voice warning when the monotony driving detection means detects that the car drives within the reference speed range for the predetermined period of time".

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In claims 27 and 36, the prior art does not disclose “wherein expressions and sex and age of the voice by the voice output means changes depending on time zone, seasons, events, and a number of time of travel”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 2-17-04 have been fully considered but they are not all persuasive for the following reasons:

In claim 10& 11, the applicant argues that the prior art Urano does not disclose changing the school zone area “types of the school”. In response, such a limitation --- changing the school zone area--- was not part of the claim language. Urano mentions a school zone and it is understood that the phrase ---a school zone--- applies to any given school, be it a kindergartens, elementary, high school or colleges, etc. When a user of the Urano device goes to any school, the device is expected to set the school zone in which the device is located at. Therefore, when Urano goes to school zone A, caution about travel for school zone A is provided. By the same token When Urano goes to School zone B different from A, the device is also expected to provide caution about travel for school zone B. Therefore, it the prior art anticipates the claims.

In claim 12, the applicant argues about the prior art not disclosing road density. The examiner respectfully disagrees. In Urano all roads in a school zone are taken into account when

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regulating traffic. When the traffic density is high it is included as traffic information. Therefore is the applicant claiming traffic density or road density, wherein road density implies the number of roads in a given area of land? It is also understood that all the roads in the school constitute road density in the school area.

In claim 13, the applicant argues that the prior art does not disclose setting school zones based on area division. However, there was no mention of a highly populated area or a less populated in the claims as argued. The prior art Urano mentions School zones. The phrase --- school zone--- is understood to be partitioned according to zoning laws or rules in the given area, which applies to the claimed "area division". Every school zone has a given area pertaining to that school zone. The word zone in "school zone" implies a partition of land area assigned for a particular school.

It is believed that the rejection is proper and stands.

Communication

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronnie Mancho whose telephone number is 703-305-6318. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs: 9-5.

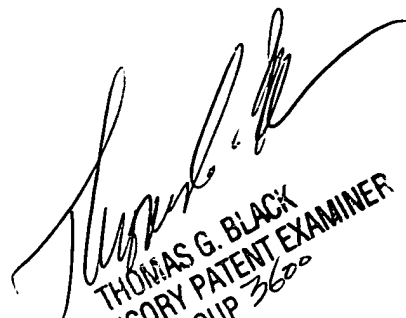
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Black can be reached on 703-305-8233. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Ronnie Mancho
Examiner
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11/12/04


THOMAS G. BLACK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 3600